

Miscellaneous.

CLOSED BED-ROOMS.—Long experience has convinced me that nothing could be more conducive to public health, than the ventilation of our bed-rooms; multitudes of people never see a single day, for years, rise refreshed in the morning, but always feel weary, oppressed, and unwilling to rise on awakening, though feeling lively, well, and unfatigued in the evening. The commonest of all the causes of this oppression and laziness, is the non-ventilation of our bed-rooms. I believe that this simple plan would entirely cure many apparently perennial chronic discomforts, make thousands rise early and refreshed, who now rise, or lie in bed, stupid, unrefreshed, and heavy; prevent innumerable head-aches and foul tongues; dissipate the gloomy thoughts and despondency with which so many rise to their daily tasks of body or mind; and cause many to start up active and alive, who never now feel refreshed, and who have, in fact, so many attractions of cohesion of comfort between themselves, their beds, and bed-clothes, that their unrevived spirits, from a want of pure air during the night, and their habitual irresolution, produced by a nameless ailment, of which they do not know the real cause, prevent their ever being able to practise a habit of early rising, as it requires too great a daily struggle, for which a want of feeling of internal habit, disqualifies them. In this way, the purity of the air of our bed-rooms would be as great at least, and probably much greater, than that of our sitting-rooms, which are pretty well ventilated by the constant opening of their doors, and the draughts of their fires; but even in these, the upper strata of the air are very imperfectly changed. —*Medical Times.*

CHOICE OF SITE FOR TOWNS.—The newspapers state that the small town of Graus, in Arragon, is threatened with annihilation. A portion of the conical rock at the foot of which it is seated has, from the effects of the thaw after the long-continued frost, begun to separate to the extent of 15,500 cubic metres, or 20,000 cubic yards. The whole of the inhabitants, seeing the impending danger, have left their houses, many of them with no more than their furniture with them. An engineer, employed by the municipality, has surveyed the mountain, and reported that there are no means of preventing the fall.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT DERRY.—Last week a portion of the arch just erected over the Mill Fleam, in the Morledge, gave way, and buried four persons amongst the ruins, two of whom were found, after the lapse of an hour, dreadfully mutilated and quite dead. The other two succeeded in extricating themselves without much injury. This is the second fatal accident that has occurred in the erection of this arch: the first was about six months since, and caused the death of six persons.

PARKS AT MANCHESTER.—A deputation, appointed by the local committee connected with these improvements, had an interview with Sir Robert Peel last week for the purpose of ascertaining to what lengths Government is disposed to go in assisting to carry out the object. The Premier said that he could not at present ask Parliament for a larger grant than 3,000*l.*, and that, on condition that a Government surveyor be sent down to inspect its disposal, and that 30,000*l.* of the local subscription be actually paid up.

NEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTION WITH THE SAILORS' HOME.—A public meeting will be held on Wednesday next at Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of taking measures to provide funds for this building, and endowing an Episcopal church for the use of seamen of the Port of London. The Earl of Huddington, first Lord of the Admiralty, will preside.

STONE ALTAR AND CREDSNCE TABLE.—Both of these innovations have been removed from the Round Church at Cambridge, by the churchwardens, who received a manition to that effect from the Archdeacon at Ely. The church will, therefore, very shortly be reopened for divine service.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—Reports are in circulation to the effect that Westminster Bridge is in a very insecure condition, and that Mr. Barry will, after all, see it replaced by a structure more in accordance with the new senate house.

GLASS.—Mr. Ord, M.P., has obtained, by order of the House of Commons, returns of the amount of duties charged, and drawbacks paid, on glass, and of the quantities imported and exported, retained for home consumption, and remaining in bond, for the year ending the 5th of January, 1845 (in continuation of the sessional paper No. 200 of the year 1844). It appears from this paper that the following were the quantities of glass charged and the amount of duty respectively imposed on the different descriptions of glass in England during the year 1844-45, viz.:—Flint glass, 9,529,294*lb.*, and 55,271*l.*; plate glass, 29,765 cwt., and 93,759*l.*; crown glass, 99,180 cwt., and 382,710*l.*; German sheet glass, 31,500 cwt., and 121,782*l.*; common bottle glass, 345,810 cwt., and 127,044*l.* The quantities exported upon which drawback was allowed were of flint glass, 11,277 cwt.; of plate glass, 116,955 feet; of crown glass in tables, 1,527 cwt.; of crown glass in panes, 6,661 cwt.; of German sheet glass, 7,656 cwt.; and of common bottle glass, 213,056 cwt. It further appears, that the quantities of glass retained for home consumption in the United Kingdom for the year 1844-45 were, of flint glass, 83,712 cwt.; of plate glass, 24,405 cwt.; of crown glass, 93,347 cwt.; of German sheet glass, 23,175 cwt.; and of common bottle glass, 193,108 cwt. The net amount of duty received thereon amounted to the sum of 645,715*l.* The amount of drawback or allowance on glass for the use of churches during the year 1844-45 was 1,343*l.* The quantities imported into the United Kingdom during the same period, from various countries of Europe, &c., were,—of crown or any window glass not exceeding one-ninth of an inch in thickness, 6,680 cwt.; of German sheet glass, white or coloured, 1,260 cwt.; of all glass one-ninth of an inch in thickness—all silvered or polished glass, of whatever thickness—and plate glass, however small each pane, plate, or sheet, 12,915 square feet (superficial measure); and of flint and cut glass, 2,883 cwt. The quantities exported from the United Kingdom of the same description of glass as those which we have already enumerated above were respectively, 6,241 cwt.; 906 cwt.; 16,971 square feet; and 1,448 cwt. The quantities of British glass exported from England in 1844-45 were,—of flint, 11,277 cwt.; of plate, 116,955 feet; of crown, in tables, 1,526 cwt.; of crown, in panes, 6,661 cwt.; of German sheet glass, 17,095 cwt.; and of common bottle glass, 213,056 cwt.

TRANSIT THROUGH EGYPT.—Mr. Gallway, of London, has made his report on the proposed Suez Railway. It is understood that he has offered to guarantee the completion of the work within eighteen months, and that the cost, including all, shall not exceed 350,000*l.* His report speaks favourably of the facilities which exist for the easy formation of a railway and for obtaining necessary materials along the line. It does not apprehend any serious inconvenience from the presence of drift-sand. It states the levels to be so moderate and gradual, that in only two portions of the entire line will embankments and cuttings of any serious extent be rendered necessary. It contemplates having the terminus from the river, at Boulae, and the other to terminate in a jetty, a little to the westward of Suez, and about a mile distant from the ships' anchorage; thus saving four miles in the communication between the road-head and the shore as at present. The line is surveyed will be 28 miles.

ACQUISIES.—The temporary Law Courts with which Palace-yard and Westminster Hall are disfigured, and will be, it is supposed, for several years to come, are complained of on account of the difficulty with which sound is transmitted. An investigation into the cause of this might be advantageous.

WOOD-CARVING.—Mr. Jordan, late keeper of the mining records in the Museum of Economic Geology, has invented a new method of carving in wood by means of machinery, and has obtained a patent for it.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—A public meeting was held last Tuesday at the Town Hall, Cambridge, for the purpose of appointing a committee to make preparations for the reception of the British Association in June.

HUNGERFORD SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—The opening of this bridge has been deferred till Thursday next, the 1st of May.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BRITTON, F.S.A.—A preliminary meeting to appoint a committee to carry out the proposed testimonial to Mr. Britton was held on Thursday last, too late in the day for us to report the proceedings in our present number. We shall allude to it next week, and in the meantime invite our readers to co-operate with the committee.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—The Council have just announced their intention to hold during the vacation in August next, an exhibition of specimens of manufacture and industrial art, in connection with the drawings to be produced by the students in competition for the prizes.

NEW APPOINTMENT.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint John C. Millward, Esq., to be Assistant Civil Architect for the island of Mauritius.

TOWN-HALL, COLCHESTER.—The new hall is to be opened on the 1st of May.

Tenders.

TENDERS for church to be called the All-Saint's Church, St. John's Wood,—under the direction of Thomas Little, Esq., architect,—for the body of the church only.

Mansfield.....	£6,480
Winsland.....	6,447
Higgs and Son.....	6,266 .. £6,136
Burton.....	5,978 .. 6,138

Separate amounts of the two lowest, show the cost if executed in Kentish Rag-facing.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the supply of Materials to the Commissioners of the Metropolis Roads.

For providing, squaring, and laying new York Paving and Granite Curb, &c., for the Commissioners under the Bedford Paving Act, St. Pancras.

For various Engineers' and Joiners' Works required to be done at the new Workhouse, Kirckfield-wood, Sandridge, Kent.

For the Masonry Work of several Viaducts and Bridges.

For performing the several works in building a new Workhouse at Tentenden.

For supplying her Majesty's Dock-yards with soft melting pig-iron.

For the supply and delivery in Bristol of about 300 tons of cast-iron Water-pipes, of various dimensions, from 7 inches downwards, with certain elbows, nozzles, &c.

For the formation and completion of a new Drain, being about eleven miles long, twenty yards wide, and five yards deep, for the Middle Level Drainage Commissioners. Also for the erection of a Staunch, several Bridges of wood with brick abutments, together with the necessary culverts, and other works.

For the performance of the Works connected with the erecting of the new Pier at Penzance.

For the erection of the Borough Gaol, Birmingham.

For the supply of 1,200 lineal yards of 11-16ths best attested, close, short-linked Chain.

For the erection of a Building in London for a highly-patronized purpose, at the estimated cost of about 30,000*l.*

COMPETITIONS.

Plans for a Church to be erected within the Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull.

Plans, sections, and elevations for a Terminus, and other requisite accompanying offices, for the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

At Ipswich: 15 Logs of Spanish, Cuba, and Honduras Mahogany, of superior quality and large dimensions; 4 pieces of Rosewood, 10 pieces of Cedar, and a few lots of Maple and Rosewood Veneers.

At the Timber-yard, opposite St. Giles's Church, London: 3,200 Pine Deals, Planks, and Battens, 840 Yellow Deals, 2,480 Spruce Deals and Planks, 120 Yellow and White Battens, 14,000 feet of three-quarter inch and half inch Pine Boards, &c.

250,000 Building Bricks, 40,000 Arch ditto, &c.; now at Sberborack Kils, three miles from London.